



## THE EVERGLADES NEWS

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### Residents Pleased

Nothing was ever undertaken in the Lake Okechobee region the manner of doing which was so highly satisfactory to all of the residents as the flood control work that is now under way. "The government is doing it and it is being done right" is a statement that is heard on all sides, the government that is referred to being the Federal government acting through the War Department.

The length of time that has elapsed since the first crew of U. S. Engineers came into the district is short by the standards of the work accomplished; it would have been complained of as being long if the work was directed by other agencies, and under the circumstances is accepted as necessary for that acceptance. It is assumed with correct errors and a few standard for the future.

Confidence in the ability of the U. S. engineers and in the soundness of their work makes the basis for confidence in the work of the residents and the government forces, and all of the comments of the residents are expressions of respect and esteem for the men who are engaged in the flood control work.

### GAS TAX 1929 AND 1931

In the eastern part of Palm Beach county there was complaint that this county did not get a fair share of the money that is paid as a tax on gasoline. The speculators in real estate who broke themselves by their own game were bitter in their complaints about the gasoline tax money distribution, and every once in a while a county commissioner talked about the "unfairness," and candidates for the legislature told about what they were going to do to abolish the "outrage."

If these complaints had what intelligent attention to what went on at Tallahassee this session and comprehended the results, they would have learned that Palm Beach county got a good "break" in the distribution of the gasoline tax money for under laws enacted at the 1929 session of the Florida legislature.

The fight—the very real and hard fight—in the 1931 session was to preserve the advantage that Palm Beach county and a few other counties have in the present distribution of the gasoline tax.

At the close of the 1929 session, the Lake Worth Herald attacked the Palm Beach county delegation in the legislature of that year and said it "couldn't see where the legislature did anything for the relief of taxpayers in Palm Beach county," and that groundless and unfair statement was echoed by some of the Herald's followers. The Palm Beach county delegation in the legislature of 1929 was Senator Alfred H. Wagg and Representative Robert E. Oliver and Howard Shary. The character of their ability and the extent of their service is measured by the fact that under a prior system of distribution of the gasoline tax, Palm Beach county got about \$35,000 a year; under the laws that Senator Wagg and Representative Oliver and Shary supported, Palm Beach county is getting about \$250,000 a year from the same source.

The Lake Worth Herald and its sale tax advocates from "could not see what the 1929 legislature did for taxpayers of Palm Beach county," but their obtuseness did not prevent the school board and county commissioners from getting hundreds of thousands of dol-

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